

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3325

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, CZ

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CZECH FOREIGN MINISTER TO PAKISTAN

1. WINDING UP A FOUR NATION TOUR TO VIETNAM, LAOS, BURMA AND PAKISTAN, CZECH FOREIGN MINISTER, BOHUSLAV CHNOUPEK, HEADING A NINE MEMBER DELEGATION OF SENIOR CZECH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, MADE A FOUR-DAY VISIT HERE MARCH 31 - APRIL 3. DURING HIS STAY CHNOUPEK HELD TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AZIZ AHMED AND CALLED ON PRESIDENT CHAUDHURY. THE VISIT, IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION BY AZIZ HMED MADE IN MID-1976, WAS THE FIRST MADE TO PAKISTAN BY A CZECH FOREIGN MINISTER. (BHUTTO VISITED PRAGUE AS FOREIGN MINISTER IN 1965. THE LAST CABINET LEVEL VISIT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WAS EDUCATION MINISTER PIRZADA'S TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA LAST YEAR.)

2. DURING THE VISIT A CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR 1977-1978 WAS SIGNED. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE STOPOVER CONTAINED NO SURPRISES, AS SEEN FROM HERE. INTER ALIA IT INCLUDED SUPPORT FOR "ENDEAVORS TO RESTRUCTURE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS BASED ON JUSTICE AND EQUITY AND CONTRIBUTE TO ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
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AND STABILITY OF ALL COUNTRIES AND THEIR SOVEREIGN CONTROL OVER THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES;" "TOTAL AND UNCONDITIONAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND THE RESTITUTION OF THE FULL NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PALESTINIAN PEOPLE INCLUDING THEIR RIGHT TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT STATE;" SUPPORT FOR THE "PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF CYPRUS, RESPECTING THE INTERESTS AND RIGHTS OF BOTH ETHNIC

COMMUNITIES AND PRESERVING THE SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NON-ALIGNMENT OF THE ISLAND;" WELCTHE FOR THE VICTORIES OF THE INDO-CHINESE PEOPLE AND SUPPORT FOR SRV ADMISSION TO THE UN; AND "RESOLUTE SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLES OF ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE". THERE WAS NO MENTION OF KASHMIR, A FREQUENT POINT IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED HERE. THIS TOO IS NOT SURPRISING GIVEN THE SOVIET PRO-INDIAN STAND ON THE ISSUE, WHICH WE EXPECT THE CZECHS SHARE.

COMMENT: DESPITE ITS UNPRECEDENTED CHARACTER, THE CZECH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN LITTLE MORE THAN A GOODWILL EXERCISE. THE SIGNING OF THE CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WAS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 1976 AGREEMENT, AND IS NOT A NEW ELEMENT IN PAK-CZECH RELATIONS. BOTH MFA AND CZECH EMBASSY OFFICIALS WE TALKED TO ADMIT TO THE RATHER LIMITED NATURE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND NEITHER SIDE SEES MUCH CHANCE FOR AN EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL RELATIONS IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTUYE. THE CZECH EMBASSY OFFICER NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDED TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WAS BRIEFLY MENTIONED, IT WAS BEYOND THE COMPETENCE OF THE DELEGATION TO GET INTO ANY DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE AS THE CZECH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE IS REPSPONSIBLE FOR THIS. OF MINOR INTEREST IS THE FAILURE OF PAKS TO GET CZECH ENDORSEMENT OF BHUTTO'S EFFORTS FOR A THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC SUMMIT, A STANDARD GOP PITCH TO VISITING DELEGATIONS THESE DAYS. THE CZECHS, WE ARE TOLD, DO NOT LIKE THE IDEA OF THE DIVISION OF THE WORLD INTO RICH AND POOR, A DICHOTOMY WHICH
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WOULD INCLUDE THEM WITH THE DEVELOPED CAPITALIST COUNTRIES. EXPLAINING THIS TO US AT MFA, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EASTERN EUROPE STATED SOMEWHAT LAMELY THAT WHILE THE CZECHS DID NOT SUPPORT THE BHUTTO SUMMIT PROPOSAL, NEITHER DID THEY OPPOSE IT. THE CZECH WE TALKED TO REPORTED A MORE NEGATIVE REACTION.
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